

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration is requested for claims 17-18, 20-23, 25-30, and 32. Claim 31 has been allowed. Claims 19 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 18-22 and 25-29 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 19. Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form. Allowance of claims 18-22 is cordially urged.

The Official Action includes a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. It is noted that the claims of the present application are allowable for reasons in addition to the reasons stated in the Official Action.

The drawings were objected to as failing to include a reference sign mentioned in the description. Specifically, it was observed that reference numeral 18 at page 10, line 20, does not appear in the drawings. The specification has been amended to properly identify the reference numerals and no drawing change is believed to be necessary.

Claims 17, 23, 24, 30, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,727,808 to *Wang et al.* Claims 17, 23, 30, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,978,791 to *Lemley et al.* Claims 17 and 24 have been canceled and claims 30 and 32 depend from claim 23. Claim 23 has been amended to recite that the initiating element further comprising a secondary explosive which is arranged between the initiating charge and the base charge, the secondary explosive being arranged to detonate after provision of

increased density in the base charge by the compression and to ignite the base charge by its detonation. It is respectfully submitted that claim 23 defines patentably over the cited references and allowance of claim 23 and the claims dependent therefrom, claims 25-30 and 32, is cordially urged.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims, claims 18-23 and 25-32 are allowable. Allowance is cordially urged.

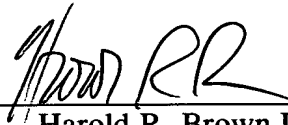
If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: November 21, 2003

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Harold R. Brown III  
Registration No. 36,341

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620